Manufacturers. Besides MIG-21 BIS variant aircraft have been planned for upgrade also.

Optimum use of funds for Development of Air Missile System

2480. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Funds for Trishul, Akash not utilised" as reported in the Statesman dated the 26th August, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the funds kept for Akash and Trishul surface to air missiles being developed by DRDO has not been utilised;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to utilise the funds and ensure no lapse on the part of development of air missile system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Both these projects have encountered cetain technology development problem associated with Command Guidance and Integrated Ram Rocket Propulsion System because of which funds have not been utilized fully.

(d) All out efforts are continuing to establish the technologies by 2003 and utilise the funds.

Indian PoW in Pakistan jails

†2481. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a demand to Government of Pakistan to release Indian Prisoners of War from Pakistani jails;

(b) if so, the number of Indian prisoners of war in Pakistani jails at present as per the figures ascertained by Government;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.